



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 221206-0261]

RIN 0648-BM72

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2023-2024 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments; Correction

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: NMFS published a final rule on November 29, 2023, to announce routine inseason adjustments to management measures in commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries for the 2024 fishing year. That rule is intended to allow commercial and recreational fishing vessels to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting overfished and depleted stocks. This action corrects the trip limits for the limited entry (LE) fixed gear and open access (OA) fleets for “Other Flatfish” (butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole) south of latitude (lat.) 40°10' North (N). This correction is necessary so that the implementing regulations are accurate and implement the action as intended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). This action also corrects a final rule published on December 1, 2023.

DATES: The corrections are effective on January 1, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keeley Kent, phone: 206-526-4655, Keeley.Kent@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS published the final rule to implement harvest specifications and management measures for the 2023-2024 biennium for most species managed under The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) on December 16, 2022 (87 FR 77007). The harvest specifications and mitigation measures developed for the 2023-2024 biennium used data through the 2021 fishing year to help various sectors of the fishery attain, but not exceed, the catch limits for each stock. Based on updated fisheries information that was unavailable when the analysis for the current harvest specifications was completed, Council recommended that NMFS extend the duration of several measures implemented through an inseason action published on October 2, 2023 (88 FR 67656), to continue the minimization of mortality of quillback rockfish off California for the 2024 fishing season. The Council also recommended NMFS reset trip limits for several species for the 2024 fishing season. NMFS published a final rule on November 29, 2023 (88 FR 83354), that announces routine inseason adjustments to management measures in commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries for the 2024 fishing year.

Need for Correction

The November 29, 2023, final rule modified tables 2 north and south to part 660, subpart E, and tables 3 north and south to part 660, subpart F. NMFS implemented an area-based trip limit for LE and OA fleets between lat. 42° N and lat. 36° N seaward of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for lingcod and other flatfish for all cumulative periods in 2024. The trip limits for other flatfish for the LE and OA fleets south of lat. 40°10' N were inadvertently changed from those that were intended by the final rule by switching the trip limits in areas lat. 40°10' N to lat. 36° N and south of lat. 36° N. The preamble to the final rule correctly notes that by reducing the “other flatfish” trip limit to 0 lbs/2 months between lat. 42° N and lat. 36° N inside the Non-Trawl RCA,

and maintaining the current trip limits seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA, the inseason action would help prevent the possible interaction with quillback rockfish within the Non-Trawl RCA.

This action changes the trip limit to what was originally intended by correcting table 2 south to part 660, subpart E and table 3 south to part 660, subpart F in the regulations. For LE fixed gear between lat. 42° N to lat. 36° N, the trip limit for other flatfish will be 0 lbs/month inside the Non-Trawl RCA and 10,000 lbs/month seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA. For LE fixed gear south of lat. 36° N, the trip limit for other flatfish will be 10,000 lbs/month with no area restriction. Similarly, for OA, between lat. 42° N and lat. 36° N, the trip limit for other flatfish will be 0 lbs/month inside the Non-Trawl RCA and 5,000 lbs/month seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA. For OA south of lat. 36° N, the trip limit for other flatfish will be 5,000 lbs/month with no area restriction.

These corrections are consistent with the Council's recommendation for the inseason adjustments to the 2024 fishing year harvest specifications and are minor corrections necessary to correctly implement the Council intent in their final action from November 2023.

This rule also removes amendatory instructions published in the final rule for Amendment 32 to the Groundfish FMP (December 1, 2023; 88 FR 83830). The amendatory instructions created erroneous and incorrect table headings for tables 2 north and south to part 660, subpart E, and tables 3 north and south to part 660, subpart F.

Classification

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA) finds there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be unnecessary and contrary to public interest. Notice and comment are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest because this action corrects inadvertent errors in the November 29, 2023, final rule. Immediate

notice of the errors and correction is necessary to prevent confusion among participants in the fishery that could result in issues with enforcement of area management. To effectively correct the errors, the changes in this action must be effective on January 1, 2024, which is the effective date of the November 29, 2023, final rule. Thus, there is not sufficient time for notice and comment due to the imminent effective date of the November 29, 2023, final rule. In addition, notice and comment is unnecessary because this notice makes only minor changes to correct the final rule and is consistent with the expectation of the public. These corrections will not affect the results of analyses conducted to support management decisions in the Pacific coast groundfish fishery.

For the same reasons stated above, the AA has determined that good cause exists to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d). This document makes only minor corrections to the final rule which will be effective January 1, 2024. Delaying effectiveness of these corrections would result in conflicts in the regulations and confusion among fishery participants. Because prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required to be provided for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, are not applicable. Accordingly, no Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is required for this rule and none has been prepared.

This final rule is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

Corrections

Effective January 1, 2024, in FR Doc. 2023-26018 at 88 FR 83354 in the issue of November 29, 2023:

Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E – [Corrected]

1. On page 83359, in amendatory instruction 2, “Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10’ N Lat.” is corrected to read as follows:

Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N Lat.

Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N Lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/1/2024

| | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}: | | | | | | |
| 1 | North of 46°16' N lat. Shoreward EEZ - 100 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 2 | 46°16' N lat. - 42°00' N lat. 30 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 3 | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Shoreward EEZ - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs). | | | | | | |
| 3 | Minor Slope Rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish 8,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 4 | Pacific ocean perch 3,600 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 5 | Sablefish 4,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 9,000 lb /2 months | | | | | |
| 6 | Longspine thornyhead 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 7 | Shortspine thornyhead 2,000 lb/ 2 months 2,500 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 8 | Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder 10,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 9 | Other Flatfish ^{3/} | | | | | |
| 10 | North of 42°00' N lat. 10,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 11 | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. 10,000 lb/ month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | | |
| 12 | Whiting 10,000 lb/ trip | | | | | |
| 13 | Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} 800 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 14 | Widow rockfish 4,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 15 | Yellowtail rockfish 3,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 16 | Canary rockfish 3,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 17 | Yelloweye rockfish CLOSED | | | | | |
| 18 | Quillback rockfish | | | | | |
| 19 | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 20 | Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & black rockfish ^{4/} | | | | | |
| 21 | North of 42°00' N lat. 5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{3/} | | | | | |
| 22 | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Minor Nearshore Rockfish 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 23 | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Black Rockfish 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 24 | Lingcod ^{5/} | | | | | |
| 25 | North of 42°00' N lat. 11,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 26 | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. 2,000 lb/ 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/ 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | | |
| 27 | Pacific cod 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 28 | Spiny dogfish 200,000 lb/ 2 months 150,000 lb/ 2 months 100,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 29 | Longnose skate Unlimited | | | | | |
| 30 | Other Fish ^{6/} Unlimited | | | | | |
| 31 | Cabezon in California 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 32 | Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling Unlimited | | | | | |
| 33 | Big skate Unlimited | | | | | |

TABLE 2 (North)

TABLE 2 (North)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by the EEZ (exclusive economic zone, i.e., federal waters from 3-200 nautical miles from shore) or lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting. LEFG vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using non-bottom contact hook and line only. See § 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Spltnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N lat. and 22 inches (56 cm) total length South of 42° N lat.

6/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E – [Corrected]

2. On page 83360, in amendatory instruction 3, “Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N Lat.” is corrected to read as follows:

Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N Lat.

Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/1/2024

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|--|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}: | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | Shoreward EEZ ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 2 | 36°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 50 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 3 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands and banks) | | | | | |
| See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs). | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Minor Slope rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish | 40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish | | | | | |
| 5 | Splitnose rockfish | 40,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 6 | Sablefish | | | | | | |
| 7 | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | 4,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 9,000 lb /2 months | | | | | |
| 8 | South of 36°00' N lat. | 2,500 lb/ week | | | | | |
| 9 | Longspine thornyhead | 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 10 | Shortspine thornyhead | | | | | | |
| 11 | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | | 2,500 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 12 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 3,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 13 | Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder | 10,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 14 | Other Flatfish^{3/} | | | | | | |
| 15 | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | 10,000 lb/ month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | | |
| 16 | South of 36°00' N lat. | 10,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 17 | Whiting | 10,000 lb/ trip | | | | | |
| 18 | Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/} | | | | | | |
| 19 | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 6,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermillion | | | | | |
| 20 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 6,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb may be vermillion | | | | | |
| 21 | Widow rockfish | | | | | | |
| 22 | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 23 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 8,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 24 | Chillipepper rockfish | | | | | | |
| 25 | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 10,000 lb. / 2 months | | | | | |
| 26 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 8,000 lb. / 2 months | | | | | |
| 27 | Canary rockfish | 3,500 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 28 | Yelloweye rockfish | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 29 | Quillback rockfish | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 30 | Cowcod | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 31 | Bronzespotted rockfish | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 32 | Bocaccio | 8,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 33 | Minor Nearshore Rockfish | | | | | | |
| 34 | 40°10' N lat. - 36° N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/} | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 35 | South of 36° N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/} | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 36 | 40°10' N lat. - 36° N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/} | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 37 | South of 36° N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/} | 2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish | | | | | |
| 38 | California Scorpionfish | 3,500 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 39 | Lingcod^{6/} | | | | | | |
| 40 | 40°10' N lat. - 36° N lat. | 1,600 lb / 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb / 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | | |
| 41 | South of 36° N lat. | 1,600 lb / 2 months | | | | | |
| 42 | Pacific cod | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 43 | Spiny dogfish | 200,000 lb/ 2 months | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | 100,000 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 44 | Longnose skate | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 45 | Other Fish^{7/} | 0 lb / 2 months | | | | | |
| 46 | Cabazon in California | | | | | | |
| 47 | 40°10' N lat. - 36° N lat. | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 48 | South of 36° N lat. | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 49 | Big Skate | Unlimited | | | | | |

TABLE 2 (South)

TABLE 2 (South)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by the EEZ (exclusive economic zone, *i.e.*, federal waters from 3-200 nautical miles from shore) or lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting. LEFG vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using non-bottom contact hook and line only. See § 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the Minor Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail rockfish are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length South of 42° N lat.

7/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- [Corrected]

3. On page 83361, in amendatory instruction 4, "Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N Lat." is corrected to read as follows:

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N Lat.

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/1/2024

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|--|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}: | | | | | | | |
| 1 | North of 46°16' N lat. | Shoreward EEZ - 100 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 2 | 46°16' N lat. - 42°00' N lat. | 30 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 3 | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. | Shoreward EEZ - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| See §§660.60, 660.330 and 660.333 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs). | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Minor Slope Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish | | 2,000 lb/ month | | | | |
| 5 | Pacific ocean perch | | 100 lb/ month | | | | |
| 6 | Sablefish | | 3,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 7 | Shortpine thornyheads | | 50 lb/ month | | | | |
| 8 | Longspine thornyheads | | 50 lb/ month | | | | |
| 9 | Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder^{7/} | | 5,000 lb/ month | | | | |
| 10 | Other Flatfish^{3/} | | | | | | |
| 11 | | North of 42°00' N lat. | 5,000 lb/ month | | | | |
| 12 | | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. | 5,000 lb/ month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | |
| 13 | Whiting | | 300 lb/ month | | | | |
| 14 | Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/} | | | | | | |
| 15 | | North of 42°00' N lat. | 800 lb/ month | | | | |
| 16 | | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. | 600 lb/month | | | | |
| 17 | Widow rockfish | | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 18 | Yellowtail rockfish | | 1,500 lb/month | | | | |
| 19 | Canary rockfish | | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 20 | Yelloweye rockfish | | CLOSED | | | | |
| 21 | Quillback rockfish | | | | | | |
| 22 | | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 23 | Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & black rockfish | | | | | | |
| 24 | | North of 42°00' N lat. | 5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{4/} | | | | |
| 25 | | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Minor Nearshore Rockfish | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 26 | | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Black rockfish | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 27 | Lingcod^{5/} | | | | | | |
| 28 | | North of 42°00' N lat. | 5,500 lb/ month | | | | |
| 29 | | 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. | 1,000 lb/ month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/ month inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | |
| 30 | Pacific cod | | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 31 | Spiny dogfish | | 200,000 lb/ 2 months | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | 100,000 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 32 | Longnose skate | | Unlimited | | | | |
| 33 | Big skate | | Unlimited | | | | |
| 34 | Other Fish^{6/} | | Unlimited | | | | |
| 35 | Cabezon in California | | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 36 | Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling | | Unlimited | | | | |
| 37 | SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below) | | | | | | |
| 38 | North | Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 500 lb of yellowtail rockfish per month as long as salmon is on board, both within and outside of the RCA. Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 2 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod, on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. The lingcod limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." These limits are within the per month limits described in the table above, and not in addition to those limits. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here. | | | | | |
| 39 | PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (not subject to RCAs) | | | | | | |
| 40 | North | Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed. | | | | | |

TABLE 3 (North)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by the EEZ (exclusive economic zone, i.e., federal waters from 3-200 nautical miles from shore) or lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting. Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splittnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N lat. and 22 inches (56 cm) South of 42° N lat.

6/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

7/ Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F – [Corrected]

4. On page 83362, in amendatory instruction 5, “Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10’ N Lat.” is corrected to read as follows:

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10’ N Lat.

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10’ N lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/1/2024

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}: | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | Shoreward EEZ ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 2 | 36°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 50 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 3 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands and banks) | | | | | |
| See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs). | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Minor Slope Rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish | 10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 2,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish | | | | | |
| 5 | Splitnose rockfish | 200 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 6 | Sablefish | | | | | | |
| 7 | | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | 3,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 8 | | South of 36°00' N lat. | 2,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 9 | Shortpine thornyheads | | | | | | |
| 10 | | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 50 lb/ month | | | | |
| 11 | Longspine thornyheads | | | | | | |
| 12 | | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 50 lb/ month | | | | |
| 13 | Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads | | | | | | |
| 14 | | South of 34°27' N lat. | 100 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 15 | Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{38/} | 5,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 16 | Other Flatfish ^{3/} | | | | | | |
| 17 | | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | 5,000 lb/ month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | |
| 18 | | South of 36°00' N lat. | 5,000 lb/ month | | | | |
| 19 | Whiting | 300 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 20 | Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} | | | | | | |
| 21 | | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermillion/sunset | | | | |
| 22 | | South of 34°27' N lat. | 3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 900 lb may be vermillion/sunset | | | | |
| 23 | Widow rockfish | | | | | | |
| 24 | | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 6,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 25 | | South of 34°27' N lat. | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 26 | Chilipepper rockfish | | | | | | |
| 27 | | 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 6,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 28 | | South of 34°27' N lat. | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 29 | Canary rockfish | 1,500 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 30 | Yelloweye rockfish | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 31 | Cowcod | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 32 | Bronzespotted rockfish | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 33 | Quillback rockfish | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 34 | Bocaccio | 6,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 35 | Minor Nearshore Rockfish | | | | | | |
| 36 | | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/} | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 37 | | South of 36°00' N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/} | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 38 | | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/} | 0 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 39 | | South of 36°00' N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/} | 2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish | | | | |
| 40 | California Scorpionfish | 3,500 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 41 | Lingcod ^{6/} | | | | | | |
| 42 | | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | 700 lb / month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/ month inside the non-trawl RCA | | | | |
| 43 | | South of 36°00' N lat. | 700 lb / month | | | | |
| 44 | Pacific cod | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 45 | Spiny dogfish | 200,000 lb/ 2 months | | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | | 100,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 46 | Longnose skate | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 47 | Big skate | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 48 | Other Fish ^{7/} | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 49 | Cabezon in California | | | | | | |
| 50 | | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | 0 lb/ month | | | | |
| 51 | | South of 36°00' N lat. | Unlimited | | | | |

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South) Continued

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/1/2024

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|--|--|---|---|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}: | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. | Shoreward EEZ ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 2 | 36°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 50 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 3 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands and banks) | | | | | |
| See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs). | | | | | | | |
| 59 | SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish, as described below) | | | | | | |
| 60 | South of 40°10' N lat. | Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lb of Chinook salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 4,000 lb per 2 month limit for minor shelf rockfish between 40°10' and 34°27' N lat., and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here. | | | | | |
| 61 | RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N lat., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL | | | | | | |
| 62 | NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn: | | | | | | |
| 63 | 40°10' N lat. - 38°00' N lat. | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/} | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} | | | | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/} |
| 64 | 38°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat. | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 65 | South of 34°27' N lat. | 100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} | | | | | |
| 66 | | Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 29). | | | | | |
| 67 | PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs) | | | | | | |
| 69 | South | Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/ day and 1,500 lb/ trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary rockfish, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/ trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed. | | | | | |

TABLE 3 (South) Continued

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by the EEZ (exclusive economic zone, i.e., federal waters from 3-200 nautical miles from shore) or lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting. LEFG vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using non-bottom contact hook and line only. See § 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) South of 42° N lat.

7/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

8/ Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

TABLE 3 (South) Continued

Effective January 1, 2024, in FR Doc. 2023-25905 at 88 FR 83830 in the issue of December 1, 2023:

Subpart E of Part 660 – [Corrected]

5. On page 83850, remove amendatory instruction 19 and the accompanying regulatory text revising table 2 (North) and table 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E, and redesignate amendatory instructions 20 through 22 as amendatory instructions 19 through 21.

Subpart F of Part 660 – [Corrected]

6. On page 83855, remove amendatory instruction 23 and the accompanying regulatory text revising table 3 (North) and table 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F, and redesignate amendatory instructions 24 and 25 as amendatory instructions 22 and 23.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 12, 2023.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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